CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A case member used in a cartridge including a shutter member, for storing an information medium having an information layer, the case member comprising:

a lower case section including a sliding sidevall and a window section configured to allow at least a head to be inserted, the head being used to perform a recording operation or a reproduction operation for the information layer; and

an upper case section including a rear sidewall which is opposite to the sliding sidewall,

wherein the shutter member includes:

a sliding section operable to slide along the sliding sidewall of the case member;

a window opening/closing section operable to open/close the window section of the case member in accordance with a sliding motion of the sliding section; and

an eaves engagement section operable to engage with at least a part of the upper case section,

wherein a step portion is formed at a boundary between the upper case section and the lower case section,

the upper case section includes a plurality of eaves sections,

each of the plurality of eaves sections is configured to engage with the eaves engagement section of the shutter member, at least two of the plurality of eaves sections are located spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance,

the lower case section includes a connection portion, and

the connection portion is connected to the step portion at a location between the at least two eaves sections, which are located spaced apart from each other by the predetermined distance, of the plurality of eaves sections.

2. A case member according to claim 1, wherein:

the connection portion is formed to have a planar shape, a surface of the connection portion and a surface of the lower case section form the same surface.

3. A case member according to claim 1, wherein:

an area obtained by projecting each of the plurality of eaves sections onto the lower case section is substantially equal to an area of an opening through the lower case section.

4. A case member according to claim 1, wherein:

the plurality of eaves sections are located substantially symmetrically with respect to a center line connecting a center of the sliding sidewall to a center of the rear sidewall.

5. A case member according to claim 1, wherein:

the lower case section includes a connection portion formed on a center line connecting a center of the sliding sidewall to a center of the rear sidewall.

6. A case member according to claim 1, wherein:

each of the at least two eaves sections, which are located spaced apart from each other by the predetermined distance, of the plurality of eaves sections, has a width along a direction in which the sliding section is operable to slide,

the width is greater than the predetermined distance, and

the eaves engagement section of the shutter member is configured to engage with at least one of the plurality of the eaves sections, even if the shutter member is in an open state.

7. A cartridge comprising a case member for storing an information medium having an information layer and a shutter member,

wherein the case member includes:

a lower case section including a sliding sidewall and a window section configured to allow at least a head to be inserted, the head being used to perform a recording operation or a reproduction operation for the information layer; and

an upper case section including a rear sidewall which is opposite to the sliding sidewall,

wherein the shutter member includes:

a sliding section operable to slide along the sliding sidewall of the case member;

a window opening/closing section operable to open/close the window section of the case member in accordance with a sliding motion of the sliding section; and

an eaves engagement section operable to engage with at least a part of the upper cane section,

wherein a step portion is formed at a boundary between the upper case section and the lower case section,

the upper case section includes a plurality of eaves sections,

each of the plurality of eaves sections is configured to engage with the eaves engagement section of the shutter member, at least two of the plurality of eaves sections are located spaced apart from each other by a predetermined distance,

the lower case section includes a connection portion, and

the connection portion is connected to the step portion at a location between the at least two eaves sections, which are located spaced apart from each other by the predetermined distance, of the plurality of eaves sections.

8. A cartridge according to claim 7, wherein:

the connection portion is formed to have a planar shape, a surface of the connection portion and a surface of the lower case section form the same surface.

9. A cartridge according to claim 7, wherein:

an area obtained by projecting each of the plurality of eaves sections onto the lower case section is substantially equal to an area of an opening through the lower case section.

10. A cartridge according to claim 7, wherein:

the plurality of eaves sections are located substantially symmetrically with respect to a center line connecting a center of the sliding sidewall to a center of the rear sidewall.

11. A cartridge according to claim 7, wherein:

the lower case section includes a connection portion formed on a center line connecting a center of the sliding sidewall to a center of the rear sidewall.

12. A cartridge according to claim 7, wherein:

each of the at least two eaves sections, which are located spaced apart from each other by the predetermined distance, of the plurality of eaves sections, has a width along a direction in which the sliding section is operable to slide,

the width is greater than the predetermined distance, and

the eaves engagement section of the shutter member is configured to engage with at least one of the plurality of the eaves sections, even if the shutter member is in an open state.